

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP, UR, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF US SENATORS TO USSR

REF: MOSCOW 2439

1. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SFRC) STAFF AIDES HAVE INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT GROUP OF US SENATORS WILL ARRIVE IN MOSCOW EVENING OF MARCH 23, REMAIN IN MOSCOW MARCH 24-26, DEPART MORNING MARCH 27 TO SAMARKAND VIA TASHKENT, AND DEPART USSR MARCH 28 OR 29, PROBABLY FOR KABUL. NO VISIT TO KIEV IS CONTEMPLATED. TRAVEL IS BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT, WITH POSSIBILITY OF SWITCHING TO SOVIET AIRCRAFT FOR TASHKENT-SAMARKAND LEG. VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION EXTENDED BY PONOMAREV DURING HIS VISIT LAST MAY ON BEHALF HIMSELF AND SUSLOV. LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN FROM SENATOR SPARKMAN JANUARY 22 ENVISAGED MEETINGS IN MOSCOW MARCH 24-26 BUT AGENDA AND SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS OF PROGRAM NOT YET SETTLED.

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2. GROUP WILL BE HEADED BY SENATOR SPARKMAN AND WILL INCLUDE SENATORS HUGH SCOTT AND HUMPHREY. FINAL LIST OF DELEGATION MEMBERS NOT YET SELECTED, BUT GROUP WILL PROBABLY TOTAL 15 SENATORS PLUS WIVES AND STAFF.

3. STAFFERS HAVE ASKED DEPARTMENT FOR SUBSTANTIVE

BRIEFING PAPERS ON MAJOR BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH MAY BE DISCUSSED DURING MEETINGS IN MOSCOW. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY EMBASSY INPUTS.

4. EMBASSY WILL BE KEPT INFORMED AS MORE INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED. KISSINGER

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